

60130-1003
99MRA0015**REMARKS**

Claims 23-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the recitation "said profile of one of said plurality of laminations includes a tab having a tab profile and said profile of the other of said plurality of laminations has a local profile proximate to said tab profile, and said tab profile is different from said local profile" is not supported. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The specification and figures clearly support a lamination having a tab profile different from the profile of another lamination proximate to the tab profile. Page 4, lines 21-23, clearly disclose that the laminations 46 and 47 of the latch bolt assembly 12 are identical, and lamination 45 differs in that it includes a tab 58. Additionally, page 5, lines 1-6, clearly disclose that the laminations 61 and 62 of the pawl 16 are identical, and lamination 60 differs in that it includes a tab 64. Figures 2 and 3 also illustrate these features. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected also rejected claim 27 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. However, Claim 27 does not depend on claim 23, but rather depends on claim 22. Neither claim 22 nor claim 27 includes the rejected claim language. Therefore, claim 27 is not properly rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The Examiner has not made any other rejections of claim 27. Therefore, Claim 27 is allowable.

Claims 4-7, 11-13, 15-22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Spurr in view of Rogers and further in view of Cutler. Spurr discloses a vehicle door latch assembly 10. The Examiner states that Rogers discloses a bolt 6 formed of a plurality of laminations. Cutler teaches a complex hybrid ceramic matrix composite laminate 10 including ceramic layers 12 and CMC layers 14 that can be aligned unidirectionally or multi-directionally. The Examiner contends it would be obvious to employ a fiber structure as suggested by Cutler in the combination of Spurr and Rogers to establish different profiles, and therefore the claims are obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 4-7, 11-13 and 15-27 are not obvious in view of the combination of Spurr, Rogers and Cutler. The combination of the references does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention. The latch bolt or the pawl of the claimed invention includes a plurality of structural

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laminations, and the profile of one of the laminations differs from the profile of the other laminations. The ceramic layers 12 and 14 of Cutler have unidirectional or multidirectional fibers, but the profiles of the ceramic layers 12 and 14 do not differ. The profiles of the layers 12, 14 and 24 are the same, as further shown in Figures 2 and 4. A profile is a representation of something in outline. The outlines of the layers 12 and 14 are not different. None of the references disclose or suggest components having differing profiles. The combination of Spurr, Rogers and Cutler does not suggest the claimed invention.

There is also no motivation to combine Spurr, Rogers and Cutler. Rogers relates to a security lock including bolts 6 formed of hardened-steel (column 4, lines 67 to 68 and column 5, lines 1 to 3). The steel bolts 6 of Rogers have a grain structure, and the ceramic layers 12 and 14 of Cutler have a fiber structure. There is no motivation to combine these references as they relate to different materials. Claims 4-7, 11-13 and 15-27 are not obvious, and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 4-7, 11-13 and 15-27 are in condition for allowance. The Applicant has filed a Notice of Appeal herewith. Applicant previously paid the Notice of Appeal fee on July 10, 2002, and therefore no additional fees are due. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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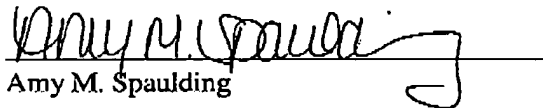
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 3676, 703-872-9306 on January 12, 2004.


Amy M. Spaulding

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